

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USAGE-BASED PRICING OF E-CONTENT

5

A method, computer system and computer program product for pricing access to e-content. The method includes tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of the quantity of e-content accessed, the quantity 10 of time spent accessing the e-content, the nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof. The individual is charged a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics. The method may further comprise establishing, storing and updating a usage profile for the individual. The method may also comprise transmitting the e-content from a server to a computer along with a 15 usage tracker for performing the step of tracking one or more usage characteristics, and accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics.